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60,446-244; 03ZFM046  
Serial No. 10/808,150

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: DeVore  
SERIAL NO.: 10/808,150  
FILED: 3/24/2004  
GROUP ART: 3681  
EXAMINER: Bonck, Rodney H.  
FOR: Clutch Assembly With Smooth Engagement  
  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

*OK to Enter  
PMS  
03/09/06*

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Dear Sir:

In response to the final Office Action of January 5, 2006, applicant requests consideration of the following arguments. Claims 1-16 remain in the application including independent claim 1.

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Braun (US 4646891). The examiner argues that Braun discloses a first reference point (point of incipient engagement) and a second reference point (point of full engagement) that are determined based on engine and transmission speed.

Claim 1 recites the steps of: (d) determining a first reference point corresponding to a beginning of torque transfer in response to the clutch operational command based on at least data from steps (a) and (b), i.e. monitored speed of engine output shaft and transmission input shaft; (e) determining a second reference point corresponding to a beginning of clutch lockup based on at least data from steps (a) and (b); and (f) determining a clutch engagement rate based